

# Easter

by  
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There's certainly a lot of history behind Easter, but let's get right to the question that has baffled us all since childhood...*What's a bunny doing with eggs?* There's no passage in the *Bible* about Easter Bunnies, and there's no reference to children painting eggs and participating in Easter Egg hunts, either. What do they have to do with the Resurrection?...*Nothing*.



According to the University of Florida's Center for Children's Literature and Culture, the origin of the Easter Bunny can be traced back to 13th century, pre-Christian Germany, where the Teutonic deity Eostra was the goddess of spring and fertility. Feasts were held in her honor on the Vernal Equinox. Her symbol was the rabbit because of its reproductive proclivities. Spring also symbolized new life and rebirth. Eggs were an ancient symbol of fertility *[notice how fertility always worms its way in to these historical celebrations]*. "As Christianity spread, the egg was adopted as a symbol of Christ's resurrection from the tomb (a hard casket from which new life will emerge)." *[http:m.christianpost.com]*

The first Easter Bunny legend appears in the 1500s. By 1680, the first story about a rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden was published. These legends were carried to the United States in the 1700s, by German Lutheran immigrants settling in the Pennsylvania Dutch country.

The tradition of making nests for the rabbit to 'lay' its eggs in soon followed. Eventually, nests became colorful baskets with colored eggs. *[http:news.discovery.com]*

But, we can go back even further to get an idea of how and where the original ideas came about. In ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Persia, eggs were already being dyed for spring festivals. Later on, in Medieval Europe, beautifully colored eggs were given as gifts. *[http:inventors.about.com/od/estartinventions/easter...]*